

Come and See What Rotary Hiring Is, NMU Tells Admiral

Curran Informs Land, Chairman of Maritime Commission, He Did Not Truthfully Describe Union's System to House Committee

Admiral Land, chairman of the United States Maritime Commission was yesterday invited to visit the headquarters of the National Maritime Union and learn what the rotary hiring system is and how it operates.

The invitation was extended by Joseph Curran, NMU President, in a letter pointing out that Land's recent testimony before the House Appropriations Committee that rotary hiring was inefficient resulted, Curran hoped, from a lack of information rather than a desire to injure the union.

On December 19, last, Admiral Land attacked rotary hiring before a sub-committee of the House Committee on Appropriations.

The NMU has maintained over and over again that the rotary system of shipping applies only to replacements, not to men already on ships. Once a man is hired he can stay on a ship as long as he wishes.

Men out of jobs, or men who have left their ship, go to the union hall and register on the "shipping list." Companies wanting crew replacements call the NMU hall, asking for a fireman, an oiler, a steward, an able-bodied seaman, or whatever rating it wants.

The man with the desired qualifications whose shipping card bears the oldest date is dispatched to the ship. If the company, for some reason, does not want that man, they ask for another. If the union feels that the reason is not a good one, it has the right under the agreement to confer with company officials and iron out the matter.

The letter follows:

"In reading the record of the hearings before the House Appropriations Committee, of last week, I note that you stated that the rotary hiring system maintained by the Union was a highly inefficient apparatus.

"I hope that your statement was not made in a desire to injure the Union but rather on the basis of lack of information of the functioning of the rotary system.

"You stated that the rotary system consists of a list of eligibles and that number one eligible is shipped, makes a cruise, at the end of which he receives his discharge and the next eligible man replaces him. This is, of course, not true.

PREVENTS DISCRIMINATION

"I would like to make clear to you exactly what the rotary hiring system is. It was adopted by the unions to cure an evil situation that had caused great hardship to the seamen and was the basic principle which established the unions in the first place.

"You will recall, before the union was formed, unemployed seamen had to go from dock to dock seeking employment. They had to patronize certain boarding houses and hang around the shipping company employment offices. The halls maintained by the U. S. Shipping Board were among the worst for blacklisting and favoritism and as a result the seamen were victimized and discriminated against in the worst ways imaginable.

"The rotary hiring system was established to prevent discrimination against seamen on the beach and so that each man would be given an equal opportunity for jobs. A man registers in the Union Hall, when he comes on the beach. As soon as a job is called in from a steamship company, the man with the oldest card, providing he is qualified to fill the job, is sent to the company. Then the company, despite statements to the contrary, has the right to reject him, if they show cause—and even in some cases where they do not show cause and simply reject the man because they do not want him. The union then sends another replacement, and the

The most immediate legislative danger on the "outrage strikes" front is not only the bills to prohibit strikes, but the so-called "cooling-off" period bills. The U. S. News, official organ of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (U. E. R. M. W.), declares in its leading editorial this week:

"When an outfit like the U. S. Chamber of Commerce comes out against anti-strike legislation, the editorial says, 'it is time that labor started looking over the situation carefully.'"

The U. E. R. M. W. said "the very term, 'cooling off,' has an innocent sound well calculated for its propaganda," and proposed the term, "straight-jacket law," as more accurate.

"In organized plants, there is no conceivable necessity for any 'waiting period' before a strike," said the editorial.

"The 'waiting period' bills are aimed first at preventing organization of unorganized shops.

"Let us suppose that an employer's workers succeed after years of anti-labor suppression, in organizing strongly enough to press demands for recognition and collective bargaining. Do you suppose that at that point the boss will by some miracle turn pro-labor? He will not; he will fight twice as hard and twice as dirty as before, and the strike will be the union's only hope of winning recognition.

"At that point, with a 'cooling off' law, the government will step into the picture, clap the newly organized men into a 'waiting period' straightjacket, and Mr. Boss will have 30 days or 60 days more to hack away every minute at a new, inexperienced group whose hands are being held by the government."

The Chamber of Commerce's statement against outright outlawing of strikes, concludes the editorial, "indicates Big Business's cool, shrewd appraisal of the political situation and its judgment of the manner in which it can best contrive, through the government, to labor up in a bag.... A majority of the politicians, particularly in Administration circles, consider it necessary to conceal their plans for labor under a cloak of liberalism. Big Business's problem, therefore, is to find a ground on which open reactionaries and the liberals can meet to settle labor's hash."

Allis-Chalmers Is Settled

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (UP).—The Office of Production Management announced tonight that the 25-day old strike at the Milwaukee plant of the Allis-Chalmers Co., engaged in defense production, has been settled.

Company still retains the right to reject. If the Union feels that the rejection is not proper, its representatives using the machinery of the agreement, meet with the Company and raise the question of why the man was not accepted. This procedure was agreed upon between the operators and the Union and has been working smoothly and efficiently.

"No ships are held up and no restrictions are placed on the operators' right to hire and fire. We merely ask for cause of discharge, which procedure is followed in every industry throughout the country. It is the right of any employee to discover why he has been discharged or rejected.

"I am enclosing for your information standard contract in existence between the Union and the steamship companies. It shows that there is no closed shop in the industry, but merely a preferential hiring clause which gives the union members preference when available, but allows the company to go outside if they are not available.

"On pages 7 and 8, you will note the sections which show that the company may retain any man in their employ as long as he is satisfactory to the company and as long as the seaman desires to remain in the employ of the company.

"I am giving you this information because I believe that you are not aware of the facts. At the same time, I am extending to you an invitation, at any time you see fit, to visit the Union Hall and examine the entire shipping system maintained by the Union. We shall be glad to acquaint you with any details regarding it.

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And Hillman Okays It

Steel Trust 'Incentive Plan' Is Another Name for Speed-up

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

During the last six months the workers in the Carnegie-Illinois plants, McDonald and Ohio Works, have struggled consistently for department wage increases. As a counter-action, the management has proposed and forced in some departments what they call an "incentive" plan.

The company has cleverly pushed this plan in the guise of a wage increase. The management has picked in the line of production approximately every other department for this speed-up plan, with the purpose of using these departments as the drivers to speed-up production in all departments. Because the workers fought against this plan, the management finally sold it to some departments on a 90-day trial basis. But after the 90 days were over the management refused to make any changes.

In protest against the plan, the more than 3,000 workers of the McDonald plant conducted a one-day strike on Friday, Feb. 7; and numerous other department struggles have taken place against it. What is this "incentive" plan?

The management has put every motion connected with a job on the basis of fractions of a second, or of seconds. If the worker can do a job in less time he is still paid for the amount allowed. So, in simple terms, the worker now produces 8 units in the time during which he formerly produced 5 units and he now gets paid for 8. While there is a small increase in the day's pay, the increase in the rate of profit is much bigger because, first, there is the direct increase in the production of the departments under

the plan, and also an increase in other departments which are not included in this plan, but which must speed up to supply work for the others without receiving even the small increase in the day's pay. Therefore naturally, the rate of profit increases tremendously for the company.

The practical results of the plan for the workers are a tremendous speed-up in production, less hours of work per week, and laying off of workers from these departments. For example, a whole group of chipper were transferred into the labor department, where they get less wages.

Youngstown, Ohio.

Veteran British Unionist Declares

The Lion Howled When the British People's Convention Twisted Its Tail

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

The Peoples Convention held on January 12th, 1941 in the Trades Union Hall in London, England, presented a united resistance to the imperialist war program of the British rulers.

As a British trade unionist for over 25 years and a fighter against imperialist wars, I heartily support what was accomplished at the Peoples Conference in twisting the "Lion's Tail" and organizing the people of Britain for a Peoples Peace.

I also support, along with millions of Americans, without reservations the program adopted by the 2,700 delegates who showed to the peoples of the world their insistence for peace.

The points of the program are:

1. Defense of the peoples democratic and trade union rights.
2. Defense of the peoples living standard.
3. Real air-raid protection.
4. Friendship with the Soviet Union.
5. A Peoples peace that gets rid of the causes of war.
6. Creation of a Peoples Government.

The spirit of the Chartist Movement of 1834 which in that day opposed British Imperialism through valiant deeds and action again has inspired the British people.

THE BLACK GANGS

The Duke of Wellington, the Sir Robert Peels and General Napier could not by repression, evictions, hangings and wholesale murder by their black gangs subdue the people of Britain. Neither



will the British War Lord Winston Churchill, or Herbert Morrison member of the Churchill Cabinet, or the British Sidney Hillman, Ernest Bevan, prevent for long the desire for a Peoples peace asked for by the Peoples Convention.

We remember, the role of these same crawling servants of British Imperialism during the General Strike of 1926, how these trade union bureaucrats tried to betray with all the reactionary forces to push forward legislation to prohibit strikes to tie up union funds and to destroy militant leadership in the most important union.

I am sure that history will not repeat itself in this period of the peoples struggle for peace and security, despite their attempts to crush the ever growing will of the common people to oppose Imperialist exploitation and wars. Their stupid efforts to suppress the peoples will by closing down their daily papers give any sensible man and woman a clear indication of the war - mongers fears.

If the Churchills, Morrisons and Bevan could have stopped the Peoples conference in London they would have done so. All hail the Peoples Convention. Let the American people become partners in the common people's demand the world over in their demands for a real peace movement, by also demanding friendship with the Soviet Union and for the creation of a real Peoples Government.

W. G.

Local 3 Member Writes

The Way to Win the Leviton Strike Is to Stop Use of Scab Materials

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

The letter by an electrical worker in the issue of February 10, touched upon one of the many sore points which have been bothering the minds of many Local 3 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Unfortunately it is not only the Silvery shop that is daily using Leviton scab products. There are many more shops that turn out fixtures with Leviton sockets and switches. Even though the membership meetings of B-E and B-F divisions have months ago passed unanimous resolutions not to use Leviton products, the business agent allow the employers to use the scab made sockets and switches under the excuse that it is impossible to obtain them elsewhere, which is entirely false.

Grocery Clerks Force Action on Unemployed

New York, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

In my previous letters on conditions in the Retail Dairy, Grocery and Fruit Employees Union, Local 338-CIO, I wrote about a meeting of unemployed workers,

where I pointed out the confusion building and the packing of these meetings by employed members of the administration in order to stop the militant action of the unemployed workers.

Well, it seems, as if the administration has read these letters very carefully, for at the meeting that was held on Thursday, February 6, 1941, the unemployed finally got a meeting of unemployed members only.

But don't think that everything was pie and honey for the unemployed. Once again the administration pulled a fast one on the unemployed. At the meeting previous to this, the manager and labor chief promised the unemployed members secret ballot elections for an unemployed committee. The administration, due to the militant stand taken by the progressive people at the past meeting, feared that through a secret ballot a committee out of their liking would be elected.

THEIR PURPOSE

A week previous to the unemployed meeting a club was started under the leadership of slugs of the administration. Their purpose was one thing—to follow out the policy that the administration fears, and that is to see that no secret ballot elections should be held. The order of business for this unemployed meeting was nominations for an unemployed committee. As soon as the meeting was opened the policy of the club was stated. A struggle for the administration made a motion for the elections to be held the same evening. Well, this was a smart maneuver on the administration's part for it was also placed on the order of business. After several speakers spoke against the open ballot and called attention to the fact that the manager and labor chief agreed to a closed ballot, not once did the manager or labor chief speak or state their position. This proved that it was a maneuver on their part and that they feared a secret ballot.

The membership, not being able to vote for a secret ballot election showed their protest by not participating in the voting. The result was obvious. The administration was victorious by their undemocratic maneuver. A committee was elected, which will act as yes men to the labor chief and will not try to solve the chaotic condition that exists in the unemployed office.

A GROCERY CLERK.

Wages Don't Keep Abreast With 'H.C.L.'

Birmingham, Ala.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

A worker at the DeLaval machine shop asked the foreman for a raise, because the wages that we are getting are not enough to take care of a family especially since the standard of living went up so high. The foreman told this worker that he would see about it. Three weeks have gone by and so far the foreman never mentioned the raise.

There are twenty workers in this shop. Twelve are white and eight are Negroes. The Negroes are machine helpers. Their wages are thirty cents an hour, but according to the labor laws they should be getting forty cents an hour.

DeLaval owns a mine too and he sure hates union. In 1935 he had two white miners killed for trying to organize his miners. We have not forgotten this.

A MACHINIST.

RANK AND FILE SOLID

The rank and file of Local 3 is solidly behind the Leviton strikers. It has voted a five percent assessment to help them.

Hundreds of union men can be seen on the picket line every day at seven in the morning, regardless of weather conditions. In order to be able to help the Leviton strikers, the B-F membership compromised on the new agreement which was signed under terms far from those demanded. All this serves to show that members of Local Three realize the importance of winning this twenty-four week old strike at Leviton.

Still, the leadership does not seem to take the necessary steps. Why is there no secondary picketing of Woolworth stores which sell large quantities of Leviton products? Why does not Local Three contact the labor unions of New York City and solicit their support? It is impossible to win a strike of this calibre by picketing a building and letting the scabs go through and merchandise come out.

Local 3 members should demand that their leadership wake up and carry the Leviton strike to a successful conclusion by stopping all Leviton products in Local 3 shops and by mobilizing the entire labor movement.

A MEMBER OF LOCAL 3.

The Guide Post

How does your weekly pay envelope stack up against the rising cost of living?

Recent surveys conducted by government agencies show that living costs are riding with break-neck speed ahead of the average wage standards, and in some instances, meat products alone have risen 50 per cent during the past few months.

Rents are zooming. Prices of clothing are trying hard to keep abreast of the mounting food costs. Virtually every item the working-class family has to buy to provide for its needs is becoming more costly with each passing week, as the profiteers take advantage of the war conditions in Europe and in this country.

The big question facing the unions at the moment is **WAGES**. In every industry the demand is growing for wage increases.

What are the workers in your shop doing? What is your union doing about this vital matter?

Write and tell us about it. We'll print your letter.



CIO Shipyard Workers Want Militant Union

New York, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.: Dealing with the role of Social Democracy in the labor movement, and as a member of a union which is dominated by these elements nationally, I thought I would blow my top by writing this letter. I am a member of Local No. 22 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, an affiliate of the CIO. Like the leadership of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, our national leadership is carrying out the line of Social Democrats and Trotskyites.

However, the rank and file of our local are beginning to see three these misleaders of labor. The membership of our local through the past three years has decreased to such an extent that whereas we formerly had seven hundred members, today we have approximately two hundred and fifty and the rank and file are taking matters into their own hands. They are not going to see these remaining workers become disorganized through the lackadaisical policy of our national leadership.

DO SEAMEN'S WORK

First of all, I want you to know the kind of work that we perform and our relationship to the I. U. M.S.W.A. Local No. 22 is a shore-gang local and is comprised of men who maintain and repair ships at their piers. The great majority of us are ex-seamen, and we do the same type of work as seamen do. We are hired by various steamship companies and contractors for the steamship companies, to do such work as painting the ship's sides, cleaning boilers, etc. This work can not be done while the ships are sailing out at sea so we do this work while the ships are in port. We are not ship builders, nor repair men who work in shipyards. We are more closely related to the seamen, than we are to the ship-yard men.

Recently our local membership, seeing the conditions that confront us, through this lackadaisical stand of our national office toward organizing these shore-gang workers, voted favorably upon a resolution to go into the National Maritime Union, and instructing our national president, John Green to undertake the proper transfer of these men from the I.U.M.S.W.A. to the N.M.U. Petitions were circulated and signed by more than one hundred members in good standing, appealing to the N.M.U. to take us in.

Immediately ten members were put on charges and tried behind locked doors and were found guilty by the local executive board. The members appealed for a fair and open trial according to our national constitution but were denied their constitutional rights. All this was witnessed by two members of the general executive board and also the regional director of the I.U.M.S.W.A. The executive board found seven of the ten guilty of the charges and reported the same to the membership for action. The rank and file of the local voted overwhelmingly to exonerate the brothers, and against the decision of the executive board. There was much red-baiting going on especially by the regional director. He was appointed regional director by the social democratic clique which forms our top leadership.

His name is Burke and I understand he was mixed up in the Apax case in Philadelphia in connection with the American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

THE DIFFERENCE

Recently, our general executive board passed a resolution condemning communism, nazism and fascism, and threatens to remove from office or expel any member who is found guilty of any of the above so-called subversive activities. I wonder if these phonies know the difference between communism, nazism or fascism. The Communists in our local are the most militant and active trade unionists we have. They fight for the best interests of the worker, for higher wages, better working conditions, and for the organization of the workers. If the Communists are fighting for these things, then I think there is something wrong with lumping them together with nazism, and fascism which works for the interests of the bosses. I am beginning to think that our top leadership is interested in furthering fascism and tie the workers on to the Roosevelt-Wall Street war program. Our membership is also becoming aware of this. An example of this can be seen by the rank and file non-concurring in the "let" resolution of the general executive board, in presence of two members of the board.

A SHORE-GANG WORKER

Workers Correspondence

From Factories, Farms, Mines, Mills and Office



CIO Shipyard Workers Want Militant Union

Hartford Unionists Say Workers Must Read 'Daily' to Be Informed

Hartford, Conn.

Worker's correspondence Department:

In the past several months every major factory in Hartford has had either strikes or stoppages. This includes the so-called Defense plants. Hartford workers may have voted overwhelmingly for Roosevelt in the last

election but they are seeking to better living standards in their own manner, under their own power, despite Administration appeals for "unity" and threats of force. . . . This is the story in brief of Hartford labor. Now while Hartford labor is militant, the organizational drive for solid mass unions has not kept in step. With hardly any exceptions, Hartford labor has moved militantly and won victories but the most important victory of all, its organization, has not been won. There is plainly no leadership, no guidance, for labor here to the extent desired.

As I see it, Hartford workers are in need of information educating them to the need for mass unions. The local press naturally will not give it, and the "Red scare" is such that militant workers whom I know are afraid of getting the Daily Worker in the shops; it is unfortunate but true. What should be done then, to get militant political and union information into these shops, to get the workers class-conscious and anti-war and aware of Washington's deep, dark plots against them?

A GOOD IDEA

I think that a group of militant Hartford workers should band together to see to it that this important field is covered. We could form a worker's committee led by a group of Union members to volunteer to do this. Leaflets could be gotten up, paid for by the volunteer contributions of interested people of whom I know many, to promote the getting of healthy ideas into the mass thought-stream. What does the Worker think of this? . . . The leaflets could have such banner lines as these: "Labor with its blood and sweat and tears will have to pay for Wall Street's war! Labor must organize to defend itself!" Or this one: "Slavery is wrong, and when labor has no Union it is in slavery!"

I know that perhaps the mood engendered by such militant ideas will result in the formation of independent unions, etc. . . . But it is true that such ideas will produce militancy and promote upward the political level of the workers. They shall have learned an important act of new ideas, a new form of thought. They shall have learned the ABC of the struggle.

Fraternally,

H. P.

Minneapolis Strikers Fight 'Slave Act'

Minneapolis, Minn.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

The Hotel and Restaurant Workers 665, A. F. of L. here emerged victorious recently after a week in court against a temporary restraining to prevent the picketing of Miller Cafeteria.

The judge declared the demand for a permanent injunction to be based upon insufficient evidence, refused the request of the company, and dissolved the temporary restraining order on the ground that testimony by the plaintiff's attorney had been incorrect. Picketing has been resumed with about 50 workers out on strike, eager to defend their rights by peaceful picketing.

The restraining order used in this strike was secured under the provisions of the Minnesota Labor Relations Law, commonly called the "Stassen Slave Act" in labor circles. This law nullifies the Anti-Injunction statute, obtained under Farmer-Labor auspices, by an obscure clause which was cleverly concealed from the public by the reactionary Republican lawyers in the legislature.

The resulting wave of injunctions which has harassed Minnesota labor since its passage is one of the first results of the reactionary Stassen regime. Joseph Ball, Governor Stassen's appointee in the United States Senate, is attempting to impose this slave law statute upon the entire nation by making it a Federal law, in spite of the fact that the Labor movement, AFL and CIO, has asked for its repeal. Organized labor must be alert to fight against this threat to free exercise to the right of peaceful picketing.

CAFETERIA EMPLOYE.

Typo Unionist Questions 'Big 6' Antiquated Rules

New York, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Prometheus had nothing on Big Six when it comes to being bound to an antiquated structure, antiquated laws, and accept dictation from an almighty executive council of the I. T. U. on such vital questions as strikes and wage scales, of the 10,000 members approximately 5,000 are full-time situation holders.

Newsdealer Tells What Readers Think

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Listening to the comments of the customers who buy newspapers at my newsstand, it is highly apparent that the scepticism of the readers is matched by their indignation. Especially are they bitter toward Wendell Willkie. And as a matter of fact, I can state emphatically, that never have I seen such open signs of dissatisfaction of the people with the capitalist press. I am trying to utilize this mood of my customers as far as possible.

In line with this, I thought it would be advisable to display the Dean of Canterbury's book. One man, a Sun reader, chanced to see it and kept staring at the Dean's photograph on the cover. I invited him to take the book down and inspect it to see what it was like. He hesitated, but took it down and opened it.

BUYS A COPY

After reading a few sentences at random he remarked, "Looks interesting." To which I replied that if he set down and read it through, it would prove not only interesting but extremely informative.

After a brief conversation, he paid me thirty-five cents and took it with him. Others too, were attracted by the Dean's photograph and many expressed favorable comment after glancing through the pages. I hope to sell many more copies. The main point though is to bring to the attention of the public the fact that there is such a book as "Soviet Power." Even if they do not buy it immediately they are impressed by the Dean of Canterbury's pro-Soviet attitude, and it is valuable and potent factor in that respect.

Incidentally, every opportunity I have I boost the Daily Worker, and the latest friend I have made is a Negro who liked your treatment of the Spell case, when I called his attention to Ernest Moore's articles.

L.H.A.

This Won't Go On Forever, Hackle Says

Bronx, N. Y.

Workers Correspondence Dept.:

Many a hackle works through a fourteen-hour shift to earn \$2.00. How a man is expected to support a family on such meagre earnings is hard to understand. The drivers are disgusted with such working conditions. The bosses are smiling because there is no apparent militancy among the hackles. But the smiles of the bosses are due to turn to frowns soon. There are plenty of men who understand that a strong organization of the men is the only way out.

NOT FOREVER

The splendid militant spirit of the hackles is far from dead. One little spark is all that is needed and the 1934 general strike would look like a tea party in comparison. \$2.00 a day for 12, 14, 16 hours work, 43 1/2 per cent commission and in some barns 40 per cent secretly; company unions called benevolent associations; open shop hirings and firings; pushing, fighting your way around town, hounded by the cops, the dispatcher, the boss; company rats following you on the streets when you have a call; worrying constantly from day to day how to make ends meet; wearing old clothes; shoes with holes; eating hamburgers and frankfurters instead of a square meal — do the bosses think a man can forever stay down? The Transport Workers Union is ready and willing to help the hackles now.

D. V.

Times composing rooms have "pools" very similar to that of the Journal-American-Mirror chapel.

The vacations won on the newspapers last year helped boost a small number of situations, proving a valuable addition to our contracts with the employers. Its extension to the book and job branch is needed.

The Big Six rank and file is very restive these days and is demanding that more drastic action be taken to remedy its unemployment situation. There is evidence of this feeling in various quarters of the I. T. U. The Executive Council of the I. T. U. is sitting on a volcano. Its hard-fisted control of strikes and wage scales in these changing, troublous times will have to be relaxed, otherwise it will have to answer to the rank and file whatever happens.

BUNDLES FOR LOVESTONE

A Lovestonke introduced a bundles for Britain resolution at a recent Herald Tribune Chapel meeting, and it was adopted. This just about winds up an infamous career of union wrecking and acting as spy and agent for Wall Street and British imperialism. At the same meeting another resolution was adopted which condemned industrialists who attacked and slandered the labor movement as being saboteurs of National Defense. It showed that what these industrialists really wanted was longer hours, low wages and bad working conditions, and called upon the O.P.M. to examine the seven day, three shift union set up in the Herald Tribune composing room as a model for defense plants.

A TYPOGRAPHICAL WORKER.



Weekly Column Devoted to Interests of Rail Labor

Vacations—Yes! But Raise in Pay, Too! A 100 Percent Strike Ballot!

At long last, we railroad workers are on our way to paid vacations. Fourteen of the 21 Standard Railway Labor Organizations, representing 650,000 of the nation's million railroaders, are taking a strike vote for two weeks' vacation with pay. For five years, the rank and file have been clamoring for such action. And now that the question is reaching a showdown, we must come through with a prompt, smashing, 100 per cent "Yes" vote!

Even though wage increases are not included on this ballot, as the rank and file think they should be, a real strike vote on vacations can also be made the opening gun of the battle for our other demands as well!

A Raise in Pay, Too

If we put this vacation strike ballot over with a bang, it will serve notice on the Wall Street owners of the railroads, that their efforts to totally ignore the just demands of a million employes have failed. Second, a smashing, solid, prompt strike vote will put steam and pep into the entire labor movement in general, and the other seven rail unions in particular. Third, it must be an initial step in stirring up our railroad union membership to action on our other demands, particularly a substantial, long-overdue raise in pay.

Fighting for Our Rights Will Win

If a strike ballot, backed by the determination to strike, can get so much (as it did the Express employes two years ago), THEN THE SAME ACTION CAN GET US A RAISE IN WAGES. Railroad management and the Wall Street bankers have made it clear that any hope to "beg" or "cuddle" even a small portion of their huge "defense" boom profits will be met with the same kind of horrified refusal that greeted Oliver Twist's request for a second helping of gruel. Fanning for years won't do it—FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHTS WILL. AND IN THIS FIGHT, WE RAILROADERS WILL HAVE EVERY WORKER—AFL AND CIO—IN THE U.S.A. 100 PER CENT WITH US.

They Take Whale, We Get Minnow

When you think of the Association of American Railroads your mind quite naturally turns to metaphors from marine life, for no other organization in the country puts out more "fishy" statistics, propaganda and asserted malarky on billboards, leaflets and billboards—to kid the workers and the public along—than this propaganda-and-lottery-bure of the railroad coupon clippers.

In this vein one can justly compare Mr. J. J. Pelley, AAR's front man, to a fishing-boat captain, who, having caught a whale, wouldn't even share a minnow with his crew. The \$682,000,000 net profits of the railroads in 1938 is certainly a whale-of-a-swing for the dividend boys and girls. And vacations with pay is certainly a minnow-like portion to hand as common help in such a Mardi Gras era.

Since the "normal" opening of this second World-War-for-Profit in September, 1939, rail profits have been continuously mounting and so has the cost of living. Also, due to increased productivity of labor—efficiency, speed-up and slave-driving—the roads are handling more business with half the working force than ever before in history. Right now is the time for all the railroad unions to shake out of their timidity and fight unitedly for increased wages to maintain our standards of living.

Paying the Seven "Missing" Brotherhoods

Seven of the 21 Railroad Brotherhoods are taking no part in the strike-battling for paid vacations. Nor are they in action for pay raises. Why? This column has no "key-hole" data nor "inside dope" on the explanation for the tomb-like silence of the seven missing Grand Chiefs. Whatever the true reasons are, they do not reflect any credit on these self-styled union "leaders"—nor does their silence reflect the intentions, sentiments and demands of their membership. The journals of these organizations have shown a strong rank and file awakening to the need for wage increases and vacations. Common sense dictates that the membership of these seven brotherhoods are aroused and their Chiefs had better quit playing possum. The aftermath of the last World War was rich enough in tragic lessons on how much rail labor lost through divisions in our ranks. The criminal disunity fostered by the Grand Chiefs of that day—and some of them are still in the saddle—and the practice of playing one group of workers against another in a futile attempt to coax a collaborational coin or two from management for one craft at the expense of another, was a disastrous policy and we must all be alert to prevent its recurrence.

What's Their Game?

That's a fair question to ask at this time when our railroad union leaders are telling us to soft pedal our "demands for higher wages until the vacation issue is settled!" And if you don't think they are doing just that, then try sending them a letter asking that they go after wage increases ALONG WITH vacations. They will tell you, as President Harrison of the Clerks told a gathering of his members in Chicago on Feb. 9: "OIL AND WATER WON'T MIX, NEITHER CAN VACATIONS AND WAGE INCREASES BE SOUGHT AT THE SAME TIME."

The fact is that the Union Chiefs have let Mr. Pelley and other management representatives stall them on vacations until the demand for a wage increase ALONG WITH vacations, became so hot that something had to be done about it. So now they are putting out a vacation strike ballot, ignoring our wage demands entirely, and playing right into the hands of Pelley & Co. THEY SAY "ONE THING AT A TIME IS ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE," BUT OTHER UNIONS—AFL AND CIO—ARE WINNING BOTH WAGE INCREASES, SHORTER HOURS, AND VACATIONS TO BOOT—ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

Why Not This Year?

Furthermore, Mr. Harrison at the above-mentioned meeting in Chicago, stated quite positively that we could not expect to enjoy vacations this year—that the intention was to get them for 1942. We know that's not the sentiment of either Mr. Harrison's Clerks, or of the rank and file of any of the other 13 participating organizations. We must let them know in no uncertain terms that we want our vacations this year—in 1941—and if the roads claim that it is too late in the season to give anyone the two weeks off, let those who fail to get the time off be given two weeks' extra pay in lieu of vacations.

No doubt Pelley and his Wall Street pals hope that they will have this country at war by 1942, and so will have another excuse to deny us vacations. And perhaps the union leaders, with their "all-out for Roosevelt war program," won't mind that either.

Let's go for a 100 per cent "Yes" vote on the strike-ballot! But, at the same time, let our voices be heard everywhere in petitions and resolutions for "VACATIONS IN 1941" and for "IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RAISE WAGES," and against involvement of this country in the British-German second World War-for-Profit.

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Candidate Meets Voter: Vincent J. Castiglione, A.D. district candidate of the 16th district, is shown in the home of Mrs. Harris who lives in an old-law tenement in Bath Beach.

Voting Day In Brooklyn Tomorrow

Landy and Castiglione in Final Appeals to Electorate

Avrom Landy, Communist Candidate in the Fourth Senatorial District, Kings County, and Vincent J. Castiglione, candidate in the 16th Assembly District, Kings, wind up their campaign tonight at a series of election-eve rallies.

Polls open at 6 A. M. tomorrow, and remain open till 6 P. M. Both Landy and Castiglione, point out in their final statements that the election gives the voters of this populous part of Brooklyn the chance to register their protest against the imperialist war, which both Democratic and Republican parties support.

Landy and Castiglione were placed on the ballot by a combined total of 4,000 citizens' signatures. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Robert Minor, Israel Amter, Peter V. Cacchione and other leading Communist speakers will take the platform with Landy and Castiglione tonight. Landy and Castiglione will speak at Bensonhurst tonight at Benson Manor, 86th St. and 18th Ave. with Miss Flynn, John Arnold and Fay Callier.

Landy speaks also at the Boro Park Casino, 38th St. and 14th Ave. with Israel Amter, and Cacchione. Landy speaks again tonight in Brighton at Public School 253, Seventh St. and Oceanview Ave. with Paul Novick, editor of the Freiheit, Sadie Van Veen and Leon Nelson.

The senatorial candidate speaks in Brownsville at the Premier Palace, 505 Sutter Ave., with Minor, Cacchione, and M. Katz.

Landy's chief opponent Carmine Marano, democratic candidate for state senate, has supported anti-union legislation as well as the infamous Wicks Bill to destroy the Transport Workers Union and other anti-labor bills.

The Communist platform, on which Landy and Castiglione are running, emphasizes opposition to the imperialist war and support for labor's rights. It calls for support of the Marcanonic bill to repeal the conspiracy law, and urges higher pay and other protection for draftees meanwhile. It demands more relief, more WPA; better unemployment insurance legislation; more penny-a-day milk for children; cheaper housing; more hospitals; more civil rights; resistance to anti-Semitism and persecution of the Negroes.

The final plank in the platform, points out that Socialism is the only permanent solution of the people's problems. This plank says in full:

Our platform is the only one in this election campaign that meets the immediate needs of the people of this district. The permanent solution, however, for the miseries of war, unemployment and poverty lies in the establishment of a Socialist America in which the common people will own and control the wealth and resources of our nation.



AVRAM LANDY

White Wings Joining Up In CIO Union

(Continued from Page 1)

complicated machinery, compared to the \$55 paid to men operating 10-ton trucks in private industry.

DEMAND SICK PAY

Time and a half for overtime is also asked; extra pay for night work—and there is lots of night work, especially during the snow season; full sick leave after the first day; the right to a fair hearing with union representation on all complaints; recognition of union grievance committees; holiday with pay as in other departments and other reforms, including a regular promotion system.

No promotions or wage increases are provided under civil service rules for these workers.

The demand for proper sick pay was emphasized in Curran's statement. Sanitation men, whom Curran called "unsung heroes," receive as many injuries as policemen and firemen put together. Many are hurt in traffic accidents and many more are made ill by germ-laden garbage and exposure to the weather.

Curran pointed out in a statement, released at the conference, that sanitation workers have been preyed on by various "fake unions" in the past. One such outfit, which denounced as a "racketeering gang" is now operating among them without holding democratic elections or issuing financial reports.

"The CIO intends to root out this racketeering gang and replace it with a clean, business-like democratic organization in which the men will elect their own officers and manage their own funds," said Curran.

In connection with Curran's remarks on this point another person at the conference called attention to the report that Commissioner of Investigation Hecland was preparing a report on an organization known as the "Joint Council of Sanitation Sweepers and Drivers."



Annual Inspection of U. S. Coinage:

W. H. Walsh, an employee at the Philadelphia Mint, weighing coins made in the Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver Mints in the presence of Mrs. H. H. Moorehead, G. J. Sokel, W. H. Kirkpatrick and Buford C. Tynes, members of the Treasury Department's Assay Committee.

4,500 Ford Workers Attend Detroit Rally

Widman, Murray Speak at Big Organizational Drive Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

do, said Murray, because the Ford workers, the people of the United States and the CIO will see to it that Ford will be organized.

Ford cannot maintain this empire of discrimination, espionage and anti-unionism any longer in America, said Murray. That the day has passed, because there has come to America, the organized labor movement, which has become an integral part of American life.

Michael Widman, UAW - CIO Ford director, in his speech, ridiculed William Green, AFL president's "union" claim for the Ford plants. He claimed a 100 per cent increase a week in union applications.

"We are preparing," said Widman, "to institute many more meetings such as this to further high-gear the drive, plus department meetings and building meetings, in order to draft demands for a contract."

He informed the audience amid loud applause that the 23 union Ford workers whom the Supreme Court recently ordered Ford to re-instate, would start work Monday morning in the River Rouge plant.

"We waited since 1937," Widman declared, "to get these men back, but we have 700 more that we will not wait four years to get back."

"A union contract with Ford," he concluded, "will place these men back in the shop."

For the first time official cognizance by the UAW-CIO was taken of the March, 1932, Ford Hunger March, where four workers were slain by the Ford thugs, and many more seriously injured during a demonstration before the Rouge plant. This march was organized by the Auto Workers Union, at that time affiliated to the Trade Union Unity League, whose Detroit organizer was Philip Raymond, The Unemployed Councils and the Communist Party also actively participated. In the speech of one Paul St. Marie, a former Ford worker, the latter said "There are four graves in Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit, of workers shot down, maliciously and deliberately before the River Rouge plant. These workers were shot down like dogs for protesting the unlawful policies of the Ford Motor Company."

He urged that the sacrifices such as this be not forgotten in the great organizational campaign now, that workers in 1932 laid down their lives, for one of the four workers killed by the Ford thugs was Joe York, outstanding Michigan Youth leader and Michigan leader of the Young Communist League.

Other speakers at the mass meeting were UAW-CIO officers Thomas and Secretary-Treasurer George F. Addes, who urged cooperation of all UAW locals in Detroit, to the organizational drive.

CIO and AFL Sugar Workers Back Strike

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BALTIMORE, Feb. 16.—Representatives of American Sugar Refinery workers from the eastern refineries, both CIO and AFL, was held here in Polish Hall, 510 South Broadway according to Frank J. Bender, CIO Regional Director.

The conference voted full moral and financial support to the striking Baltimore Sugar Refinery workers, who are out 100 per cent. The representatives also laid the groundwork for a unit contract with the American Sugar Refinery, to be followed by a contract for the entire industry.

A telegram was sent from the conference to the company president and the local management, signed by all but the Baltimore delegates, demanding that negotiations be resumed to bring about an honorable agreement on wages and conditions of employment.



Defense Project brings another "Gold Rush" to California: A section of San Miguel, which became a "boom town" with the arrival of thousands of men to work on the construction of Camp Roberts. The town, which formerly consisted of a score of frame houses, is now a community of tents and trailers, with as many as five men living in one trailer or tent.

Detroit's Trade Union Leaders Oppose H. R. 1776 As Dictatorship Move

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Feb. 16.—A great campaign against the war mongering Lend-Lease Bill is under way here. Local union after local union are showering through telegrams and resolutions Michigan's U. S. Senators to vote against H.R. 1776 which will get America deeper into the present imperialist war.

From the scores of resolutions and statements here are the most prominent.

August Scholle, CIO Regional director: "I am against the Lend-Lease Bill. The time is not ripe to give aid to Britain, as they have not yet learned to protect democracy. The treatment of Chrysler employees in Windsor, Canada, is an illustration of British 'democracy.'"

Charles Bethel, international representative UAW-CIO: "The lend-lease bill is another long step in President Roosevelt's war program. It means war and dictatorship. All those who value American democracy and peace, should do everything to see that this bill is defeated."

Tom Curtin, president Steel Workers Organizing Committee local 1297, CIO: "Congress and Senate Committees conduct hearings on the Lend-Lease Bill and won't even listen to the real representatives of the American people. Thus we must bring out in the open and show that this measure means plunging America deeper into the present imperialist war. We must rally all people who treasure peace and democracy to defeat this bill. Amendments proposed by some are only ruse to make sure the bill passes."

NEGROES OPPOSED

Joseph Pagano, national assistant director, WPA and Welfare Dept. UAW-CIO: "The passage of the Lend-Lease Bill would mean the beginning of our end as a democratic nation. I stand against this measure because I do not believe it is in the best interests of the American people to have fascism at home."

We must not forget that fascism means war and that the American people are 88 per cent against war. By all means we must defeat Lend-Lease Bill 1776 if we value our nation and its democratic traditions."

E. J. Danielowski, financial secretary, Dodge local, UAW - CIO: "The passage of the lend-lease bill means war and the destruction of democracy, which we Americans have learned to cherish so greatly. I urge all Americans to write to their Senators urging them to defeat the bill and keep the country at peace."

Lebron Simmons, Chairman of the Detroit Chapter National Negro Congress: "Great pressure is being brought upon the Negro people to give support to this war-mongering measure that will plunge our nation deeper into the second imperialist war; as I listen to the war words of the warmongers amongst the Negro people and their talk of aid to British democracy, I think of the people of Ethiopia, Spain, and Czechoslovakia and how they cried in vain for aid and never got it."

"When the people of Britain are the government, then and only then will we see democracy in Britain, with the millions of people of Africa, India, and all other British colonies getting democracy. 'Get out and stay out of the war by defeating 1776.'"

James Neuman, president United Electrical, Radio and Machine workers of America (CIO): "This bill is the greatest piece of political demagoguery ever presented to the American people. If it passed it will place upon the people of our nation the chains of fascism. Our first line of democracy is at home and not across the seas where imperialist nations are clutching each other throats. We have the problem of doing something about the \$2,000,000 shrunken bellies in this nation."

Robert Willis, president of the

SOMWA, Local 116, CIO, also chief of detectives at the Wayne County Sheriff's office in Detroit.

"This bill is another step in the wheel of the cannon going towards war, and we will be in it up to the neck," this bill goes through. The American people must remember that the warmongers have more and more mediums to lead us into war. The same thing is happening now as occurred in 1914-15-17. The people must defeat this conspiracy of the warmongers."

Harry Rothenberg, international representative, Fur and Leather Workers Union CIO: The lend-lease bill is President Roosevelt's attempt to slip the noose of fascism around the neck of the American people and drag them deeper into the war.

Browder Hails People's Culture at 'Masses' Rally

(Continued on Page 2)

"We have created the atmosphere, we have fertilized the American soil out of which is growing most manifestations of American culture today."

BORROWED WEAPONS

"It is not accidental," he declared, "that the decrepit American bourgeoisie, in order to conduct its struggle against us, has to borrow weapons from our arsenal," and he gave as an example the opening of the last Republican convention with Earl Robinson's "Ballad For Americans."

"That's typical," he said.

"Even if they want to produce 'great' literature for the bourgeoisie," he continued, "they have to get a crook who once crept into our movement and was kicked out. Their best-seller today, what's his name? 'Out of the Sewer...' That is the symbol of the culture of the American bourgeoisie today."

"But we have our best sellers too," he continued. "This year our best seller is the Dean of Canterbury's 'Soviet Power.' That is the symbol of the cultural life we are bringing to America. Let the two camps be judged by their best sellers..."

Browder pointed to such "re-evaluations and repudiations of its own past by the bourgeoisie" as the novels "Oliver Twist" and "Gone With the Wind" and other current falsifications of history as evidence of the "most profoundly reactionary currents" in bourgeois culture.

CITES CORRUPTION

"Likewise in political life," Browder said, "we are given today one of the most profoundly reactionary regimes the world has ever seen—covered with the tawdry trappings of a cheaply-bought progressive reputation."

"American politics today are so completely reactionary, corrupt and degenerate that even the Burton K. Wheeler who four years ago was the reactionary leader in the fight around the Supreme Court, stands out today in the swamp in Washington as a sort of progressive giant."

But the reaction which has engulfed America is strong in appearance only, Browder declared.

"The gathering forces of reaction," he said, "and its offensive is a sign not of the strength of reaction in America, but is a sign that the whole ruling class today is becoming conscious of its own doom. It is a sign that the American bourgeoisie has read its own death warrant and is in a hysterical fit of resistance to the inevitable."

BOURGEOIS CORPSES

Although progressive forces appear small in numbers, Browder reminded the audience that "history always represents the future with a minority. We represent the future, we represent the American search for truth, the American tradition of democracy, the honest thought and culture, the search for beauty, the creative power of the masses."

The people want no part of this war."

Fred Williams, representative and editor Bohm Aluminum Local 288, UAW-CIO: "The Lend-Lease Bill is another step towards the involvement of the U.S. into the imperialist war. Those advocating amendments are not defenders of democracy and peace, but are just attempting to make the bill easier to cram down labor's throat. Get out and lick the bill, before its too late."

The Wayne County CIO Industrial Union Council recently sent a delegation to Washington to see the Michigan Senators and demand that in the name of 200,000 CIO workers they will vote against the bill.

Browder Hails People's Culture at 'Masses' Rally

(Continued on Page 2)

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Uruguay Seeks Arms

MONTEVIDEO, Feb. 16 (UP).—The Minister of National Defense said today that discussions were under way with the United States for the financing and purchase of arms, planes, and ships under Uruguay's rearmament program.

Food Ship Delayed

VICHY, Feb. 16 (UP).—The United States Embassy was informed today that the Red Cross food ship Cold Harbor, expected to reach Marseilles on Tuesday, had been delayed and now could not reach Marseilles before March 11.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1941

Ten Years in Prison For Striking!

In Miami the executive council of the American Federation of Labor voiced its opposition Friday to the proposed state "anti-sabotage" bills as being in reality anti-union. The Congress of Industrial Organizations, through President Philip Murray, has taken a like position.

These bills have been concocted by the Roosevelt administration's Department of Justice—a department which has been paralyzed in dealing with the flagrant violations of civil liberty and which has made no move to halt the criminal speed-up which has been responsible for the death-dealing fires and explosions in so many factories.

Under this proposed legislation, union representatives carrying forward their legitimate activities in the organization of the unorganized could be tried, found guilty and sentenced to ten years in prison. Strikers could be treated in like fashion. The accidental mistake of a workman—arising from the speed-up—could be converted into "sabotage" under these proposals.

Such legislation is not only devised for union-smashing. It is also a fine scheme to cover up the big employers' destruction of life through the unconscionable speed-up.

At the present moment, there is real danger of the passage of this suggested legislation. Bills of this character are now pending in the legislatures of Washington State and of New York. The plan of the Department of Justice is to have them introduced in every legislature that meets this year.

The preservation of the unions requires the defeat of these measures. Labor will have to be on guard in every state, advising the legislators in no uncertain terms, that these "anti-sabotage" bills are to be voted down.

A Lesson in 'Sacrifice' For New York's Farmers

At Cornell Friday night, Governor Lehman made an address to a group of farmers which was overcast with irony.

"Sacrifice" was the main burden of the governor's remarks to the agriculturists—"sacrifice" arising from the war economy and the "aid to Britain" activities of the government. "We have as yet no conception of what this is to cost in the way of taxes," asserted the Empire State's chief executive. Go through with this program of blood and tears we must nevertheless," he declared, "whatever the cost."

The majority of the tillers of the soil are getting at this very moment a good dose of the "sacrifice" which the mad war game is costing them. Throughout the country their lot is being worsened, with the prospects ahead for an even harder future. The talk about taxes beyond "conception" on the part of Gov. Lehman is in line with the entire scheming of the Roosevelt administration to free Big Business from any heavy burden and to put it on the shoulders of the farmers and workers.

The irony in the governor's speech is heightened by his position in the financial world. Herbert H. Lehman is an outstanding finance capitalist. Although technically "resigned" as the head of the banking house of Lehman Brothers while in the governor's chair, his interests are in that firm. Far and wide it reaches—in collusion with the Morgan, Mellon and Rockefeller interests—to control large portions of those great trusts which are being so graciously freed from any real tax load by the war government.

Particularly is the firm of Lehman Brothers interested in the financing of air routes to Latin America, the advance guard of the subjugation of that section of the Western Hemisphere to Wall Street.

Between Mr. Lehman as a finance capitalist and the working farmers of New York State there is nothing in common. In his appearance at Cornell, with his talk of "sacrifice" for the farmers, the governor is giving a good presentation of the real core of Wall Street "national unity"—profits and power for the big bankers and trusts; "sacrifice" for the common people.

The farmers will work out their salvation by rejecting this "national unity" and finding real unity with their allies, the industrial workers.

A Handy Tool for Reaction

Such an intense atmosphere of war hysteria and red-baiting has been created by the Administration and the capitalist press, that all one has to do is to yell "Communist!" and he expects to go scot free for all his crimes.

A man over in Passaic, New Jersey, who becomes involved in a family quarrel which leads to his wife's death, howls "Communist." A woman is discharged from the city welfare department because of sheer incompetence, shouts "Communist."

President Roosevelt tries to disguise his imperialist war program as a "crusade for moral values." But it is the hysteria created by this program which is breaking down all sense of morality and decency, and is leading to serious provocations against civil rights. For example, Neil Brant, a CIO strike leader in Carteret, N. J., is now framed as an "abuser" of the United States flag because, at a strike meeting, he banged his gavel on a table where the flag had been placed as a symbol of the union's lawful activities.

Red-baiting breeds irresponsibility and lawlessness, and it could not be otherwise since it is done for the reactionary purpose of intimidating decent citizens and white-washing criminals, especially those in high places.

'A Workers' University'—For the Many!

China's famed Fourth Route Army lived in the pages of yesterday's Sunday Worker. The exclusive story by Hu Han-yi rang with the spirit of those fearless and intelligent battlers for the Chinese people and against Japanese imperialism.

The affectionate and approving names bestowed upon them by the people, their methods of training, their skill in defeating the Japanese armies of invasion provided an epic in the current struggles of the peoples for liberation. Such an account could only be found in the columns of the Sunday Worker.

Yesterday's issue again reminds us that this weekly paper is a Workers' University. It contains information which can be obtained nowhere else. It brings to the worker a vivid moving picture of the world in which he lives and what is happening in that world. Not only does it record the events, but it places them in their proper proportion and shows them in relation to other things that are taking place.

From all corners of the world, the battles of the people for further mastery of their life is reflected in the Sunday Worker's cables from abroad. The plight of the unemployed at home and the plots of the war government against their security, together with the status of the union movement throughout the country, also are vividly portrayed. The goal of the working people in the winning of a Socialist America is brought forward.

What would be the progress registered immediately in American life if this issue of the Sunday Worker could reach only TWICE the number of readers who enjoyed it yesterday! This Workers' University is not prepared as the exclusive property of only a chosen few. It is published for wider and wider distribution.

We appeal to the readers of the paper to make it a special point of their activity, to see that the Sunday Worker is discussed more widely and that it gets into the hands of a much greater number of readers. Every man and woman who enjoys its articles has friends, fellow-workers and neighbors. Let them know of what can be gleaned from this paper; see to it that they become regular readers of its pages. Every new reader for the Sunday Worker is a new fighter for peace and progress.

A Celebration—Not A Tombstone

Gov. Lehman has set aside the week of Feb. 16th to commemorate the birth of the Bill of Rights, a practice which he observes annually.

But nothing happens from Albany circles to really observe this magna charta of the American people; everything happens to undermine it, more often with the approval of the Governor.

Each year the fascist Devaney law is made more stringent, until now it proposes to outlaw all progressive, peace-loving organizations as "foreign agents." The Coughlin bill would destroy the trade unions' hard-won right to strike under the guise of banning "sabotage." The Dunnigan bills, aimed at barring the Communist Party from the ballot, would outlaw that minority political expression which is the heart of the Bill of Rights.

Gov. Lehman opened the way for these measures through his war-mongering "defense" message, and through his war-economy budget against living standards. In view of the fact that both major parties are lined up with him, the people can expect no real defense of the Bill of Rights from those quarters. Actually, they are working for a memorial to the Bill of Rights. The only force standing between them and a tombstone for this document of liberty, is the unity of labor and the people brought to bear against the Dunnigan, Coughlin and Devaney bills and against other legislation aimed at human freedom.



Plymouth Workers Perform a Service

Sixteen hundred Catholic trade unionists, members of Plymouth Local 51 of the United Automobile Workers, have expressed their condemnation of the red-baiting and dual union activities of the "Michigan Labor Leader," organ of the "Association of Catholic Trade Unionists." In doing so, they have performed a service to their worker co-religionists and to the labor movement.

The introduction of an organized religious group into the trade unions is, in the first place, a most serious source of disruption within those organizations. It fuses religious differences and feeds intolerance. Such evil fruits lead to the undermining of union solidarity.

Particularly is the introduction of an organized religious group into the unions a grave danger for the Catholic masses. It arouses bitterness which provides fertile soil for the development of sentiment against Catholics, spurring on the creation of new Know-Nothing, APA, Ku Klux Klan and Black Legion movements.

The "Michigan Labor Leader" has borne out such conclusions. By its interference along religious lines in the affairs of the United Automobile Workers, it has tended to create division in the ranks of that organization on the one hand, and to inspire

the Catholic members of trade unions on the other. The prompt action of the Catholic workers in the Plymouth plant has served to erase both of these undesirable results of the activities of the "Association of Catholic Trade Unionists."

Such activities take on a pernicious form, particularly when they become linked up with direct aid to the bosses, as was the case in the "arbitration" decision by Father Owen Rice in Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania priest has not hesitated, as an active promoter of the "Association of Catholic Trade Unionists," to indulge in red-baiting interference in the local union elections of the Westinghouse Electric and Aluminum workers in the Smoky City.

Now Father Rice has made an "award" which causes the discharge of a laundress from her job, where she has acted as shop steward for three years.

Unions are built and maintained on the solidarity of the workers—of all faiths and racial origins. Red-baiting is the particular device of the bosses and their agents to send that unity. When on top of such red-baiting, religious distinctions are brought into the unions in an organized manner, unionism is torn with strife—and becomes the easy prey of the anti-union employers.

Letters From Our Readers

Tragic Story of Inadequate Air Raid Shelters

New York, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:
 Enclosed please find copy of a letter a friend of mine received from Liverpool, England:

"Liverpool, Dec. 25, 1940.
 I regret to have to tell you that I have lost all Mr. Wilson, Harold, Jimmy, Violet and Wilbaird, in the air raid on Saturday night. I have been waiting to hear from you since August, and hope you are all right. Ben was the only one saved out of all those that were to the shelter, and is now in the hospital though he isn't so seriously hurt as was feared at first.
 I do hope you will excuse this short note as I feel too upset to write more.
 MRS. W."

Grand Opera and Big Business Propaganda

Woodhull, L. I.

Editor, Daily Worker:
 Saturday afternoon this season there is an interlude in the broadcasts of Grand Opera, at which time Mrs. Milligan, President of the National Women's Council, presents a speaker of high position to speak on some phase of democracy. She or the announcer does not say that the National Women's Council is sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers, as their letterhead states. Under the FCC, I believe they should make this statement.

Five years ago I saw a copy of the then most recent M-Day plan, in which it was stated women's organizations were very important. This sanctifying in a phony talk on democracy, for it is phony no matter how sincere is the speaker, when it is sponsored by an institution that does not believe in democracy, is irritating to listeners and should be protested. I think.
 J. C. K.

'A Great Book'

Upland, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:
 "The Soviet Power," by the Dean of Canterbury, is a great book and is already making its influence felt. I have an uncle in Pennsylvania who is a clergyman, with a large following, and a few weeks ago I mailed him a copy. Recently I received an acknowledgment from him thanking me for the book. He said it was just what he wanted. I was surprised at his courage, too, when he mentioned that he had quoted from the book on the Soviet Constitution, and the guarantee it provides for the people.
 I have sold 10 copies of the book so far and have ordered more.
 RAILROAD WORKER

A Long Step Toward Dictatorship and War

New York, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:
 It was not enough that the oppressive law for the compulsory military service of the young males of the nation was passed. Now the House of Representatives has just taken another step in the direction of substituting government by the well coordinated functions of the three divisions of the government or—by the Constitution for a one-man rule by decree. The H. R. 1778 is a long step toward that end.

The people must reflect very deeply about this drift toward dictatorship and war. The path of dictatorship and war as charted in the H. R. 1778 Bill is the path that inevitably will lead this country to the creation and maintenance of big armies, mounting debts and unbearable burdens of taxation, to intolerance and national bankruptcy.
 A. G. D.

'Threatening Sign'

New York, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:
 It is a threatening sign—the concerted and sinister attacks on free public education which have lately been so conspicuously prevalent.

Every day democratic America is being pushed closer toward a fascist hell. The most precious things of the people—cultural, political, economic, are being plundered by the hands of treacherous profit-litany capitalism and replaced with bloodstained bombs and bayonets.
 A. S.

'A Monstrous Crime' Against the People

New York, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:
 Enclosed please find copy of a letter I sent to Representative Sol Bloom:

"I see by reports in the press that you are supporting the President in his efforts to drag the United States into the war to save the British Empire. The clearest indication of your intention is to be found in a dispatch from Washington on Feb. 5, 1941, which stated that Lord Halifax Visited Sol Bloom." It further stated that the main purpose of the Lord's visit was to find out how much progress you and your British war policy supporters are making in the direction of bringing the United States into the war to save the world for 'democracy.'

The American people are tired of you slick politicians and your brazen efforts to drag this nation into the blood bath that is taking place in Europe. The greatest danger facing the American people is the immediate danger of war. Passage of the Bill H. R. 1778 in any form would be a monstrous crime against the people of this country.
 S. B.

Canada's Warmakers Clamp Irons on Labor And Right to Strike

By Sam Carr
 (Special to Intercontinental News)

TORONTO, Feb. 16.—As soon as Canada entered the second imperialist war the leadership of the AFL unions in Canada hastened to assure the war makers of their full support. Tom Moore who resigned the leadership of the Trades Congress of Canada (AFL) to accept a fat job from a Tory government, returned to the leadership of the unions when the job petered out. He is today a champion of "democracy" though in the days of the struggle to aid Spain he was among the main enemies of the Spanish people.

Before the war the CIO unions in Canada represented a progressive militant force which organized tens of thousands of workers in the mass production industries. The reactionaries in the CIO unions utilized the outbreak of the war to rid the organization of all progressives. In a bureaucratic, underhand move they "united" the CIO unions with the small and reactionary organization led by Mosher of the All Canadian Congress of Labor. The newly organized Canadian Congress of Labor is bending all its efforts to convince the war-cabinet that they are even more pro-war than their brethren of the AFL.

In the endeavors of the bureaucrats of both trade union centers to chain the workers to the war makers wagon, they received effective aid from the dictatorial war government. One after another militant and beloved leaders of labor were kidnaped and spirited away to concentration camps. Pat Sullivan the leader of 5,000 Canadian seamen, Fred Collins, leading spirit of the Toronto Trades Council, Charles Murray of the Fishermen and Seamen of Nova Scotia and many others who fought the bureaucracy in the unions were removed by the "heroes" of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. That the trade union bureaucrats appreciate the aid of the State against militants was amply demonstrated when the chairman of the resolutions committee at the 58th convention of the Trades Congress of Canada replied as follows to the demand of the rank and file that the government be compelled to repeal the act under which unionists are kidnaped. Said Mr. R. Hewitt:

"Why should we ask that trade union members be allowed to say things for which other persons would be put in prison? There is no reason for us to ask special privileges for union members. The committee feels that it is in the best interests of the Trade Union movement and of our country that no change in the Defense of Canada Regulation, as advocated in these resolutions, be urged upon the Federal government by us."

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RIGHT TO STRIKE?

Under the Social democratic smoke screen the war cabinet promulgated, one after another, restrictions of the rights of labor. Even when Parliament was in session the government operated by the instrument of cabinet decrees known as Orders in Council.

With profits soaring (as high as 1,700 per cent for the Canadian section of the United States Steel Co.) let us see what happens when a group of workers seek to increase wages, even if only in keeping with the rising cost of living.

Employers, remembering that the government formally reaffirmed their right to collective bargaining ask the employer to a conference to discuss conditions in his plant. In view of the fact that no law exists which compels the employer to bargain collectively, the employers refuse to do so in most cases. The workers faced with such a refusal cannot call a strike for this would violate Order in Council No. 3405 under which the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act was extended to all war industries, meaning in fact to all industry. Under this act the workers can vote a strike but cannot strike. After a vote is taken they must apply for a conciliation board.

To crown it all, the government presented the workers of Canada with a New Year's present in the form of the Order in Council 7740. This edict freezes the wages of workers to the level of wages in the given industry during the years 1938-1939.

It is important to remember that during the years 1926-29 the wages in the mass production industries were low since there was no organization in auto, steel, and many other basic industries. With the rise of the unionization campaign in basic industries in the years 1932-39 wages were increased and conditions bettered.

The conciliation boards, huge profits of industry notwithstanding, can even when favoring the workers, recommend only increases in cases where wages are actually lower than they were in the years 1926-1929.

The edict number 7440 provides that should the conciliation board find that in the industry under consideration the wages paid during 1926-29 were "unduly enhanced or abnormal" that they need not recommend any changes in the present wage rates, rising cost of living notwithstanding.

From coast to coast, the workers are becoming aware of the intentions of the war cabinet to drive the standards of living down.

Last week a special convention of the Federated Shop crafts at the head of the Lakes passed a unanimous resolution to express a lack of confidence in their leadership, the executive of Division Four of the Railway Brotherhood of Carmen of America. The resolution denounces the support the leaders gave to Order in Council 7440 and demands that the Division leadership should cease "mortgaging the claims of the membership for a bonus scheme." The resolution of these railwaymen calls upon the Division to "consider the special claims of the membership and adhere to the policy of establishing universal return to full time work and negotiate to increase wages."

On March 2, the Canadian Seamen's Union will hold a special convention to deal with the imprisonment of its leaders, President Pat Sullivan, treasurer Jack Chapman, vice-President Murray and editor David Sinclair.

The rising opposition in the ranks of the workers is admitted by Mr. A. R. Mosher, president of the Canadian Congress of Labor and a gentleman who sat in when the Edict was passed. Writes Mr. Mosher in the magazine of the Brotherhood of Railway employees:

"There has been some misunderstanding throughout the brotherhood and among the organized workers generally with regard to Order in Council No. 7440."

The worthy trade union bureaucrat proceeds to assure the workers that "the order will be helpful rather than harmful to the interests of the workers."

CHANGE THE WORLD



My Artist Friend Returns
From the Southland with
Some Interesting Stories
By MIKE GOLD

AN ARTIST friend has just returned from a few months spent in a forgotten little fishing town on the South Carolina coast, in the Gullah country, with some interesting paintings and as interesting anecdotes.

He has never been south, and the whole experience seemed as strange to him as if he had visited the interior of China, (though one must not make such comparisons today, China being more progressive than most of our southland).

One idle afternoon my friend drifted into the local county courthouse. A murder trial was in session. The crime had occurred 20 years ago, in the following manner:

It was the end of the harvest. A Negro sharecropper, down to his last slab of fatback, tramped some 12 miles into the country to see his white landlord.

"Mistuh James, could I have some of that cash you owe me?" he said respectfully.

Mistuh James was so mad he reached for his gun. "Get out of here!" he shouted. No Negro sharecropper had ever dared ask him for money. They waited for it, until Mistuh James notified them to call, when he was good and ready.

"But we're hungry, and this money is coming to me."

"By God," said Mistuh James, "I'll get the boys out for you. The Klan'll visit you tonight and whip a little sense into your hide!"

Mistuh James often used the Klan around this time of year, as a way of scaring off his sharecropper creditors.

So this particular creditor tramped the 12 miles home again, scared and worried. He couldn't leave town with his family; there was no money. He just would have to stick it out somehow, he thought miserably.

He was still awake, in bed with his wife, and still worrying, when soon after midnight there came an awful pounding at his door.

"There they are!" screamed his wife. They could see a car in the road, and two men at the door. The sharecropper went cold with fear. The men were breaking down the door. He reached for his shotgun, hanging over the bed, and as the first white man crashed into the shack, let him have it full in the face.

But, as it turned out, it was not the Klan. The visitors were two deputy sheriffs, searching for another Negro. They had already broken down a dozen other doors in the Negro settlement. That was only their routine way of conducting such a search.

The sharecropper escaped north. For 20 years he lived in Detroit, under another name. He worked and sent money to his wife. The authorities at last traced him through these letters. They issued an extradition warrant. At first the Michigan Governor refused to honor it; then, finally, he did.

The sharecropper was brought home in handcuffs and tried for murder. All the witnesses, including those of the prosecution, corroborated his story. It was clearly no case of murder with malice aforethought. It was self-defense and an accident. But the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree.

My artist friend, a northerner not yet accustomed to southern justice, was indignant to think that a man might be hanged on such a story. He went to an influential young merchant in the town, with whom he had struck up a friendship.

"Why get so hot and bothered?" this genial fellow smiled. "You northerners never understand. So far as Negroes are concerned, the south is always under martial law. In war time, what this sharecropper did would be called mutiny against his superior officers."

My artist friend learned that the sharecropper's defense attorney, assigned him by the court, had himself killed a Negro only a month before. The Negro had worked all day in his garden. At dusk, he went to the attorney's wife, and asked for the wage they had agreed on—a dollar. The woman gave him fifty cents. He was foolish enough to resent this. He threw the coin on the ground and walked off without a word. The woman told her husband. He got his gun and shot the mutineer to death.

My artist friend finally had to leave this "quaint" little southern town. It was getting too hot for a native and intrusive northerner with "quaint" ideas of justice.

A servant girl, sister of the woman who helped his wife mornings with the housework, was in jail and he was appealed to for help.

Her crime was as follows: the doorman rang one morning, and she answered it. A white magazine canvasser entered. The mistress of the house was out; the servant was alone. The canvasser beat her up and raped her. So she went to the Sheriff's office and entered a complaint. It made the Sheriff so mad he arrested her, (for mutiny). My artist friend, after the girl had spent three days in jail, went down to see the Sheriff.

"What's the charge against her? I'd like to get her a lawyer."

And this made the Sheriff madder than ever. He cursed the artist, and yelled: "If you don't get out of town, I'll lock you up, too, and send you out on a chain-gang, you Yankee wise guy!"

"But what happens when a Negro girl is raped?" my artist friend asked his easy-going friend, the young merchant.

The other burst into a roar of good-natured laughter.

"It happens every day," he said, "that's what happens."

So, after writing the details to the N.A.A.C.P., my artist friend shook the muck and clay of South Carolina from his shoes. He could no longer enjoy the landscape, or keep his mind on the technique of painting. There was too much innocent Negro blood on the trees, the skies and the soul of the south. When your eyes finally opened and could see the monstrous stains of injustice, the place grew intolerable.

My artist friend is highly non-politically-minded. He is, however, instinctively American and instinctively anti-fascist. He hates Hitler wholeheartedly, for example, because of his horrible treatment of the Jews. As for what he saw in the south, he is equally indignant.

"It never gets into the newspapers," he says, "but it happens every day. It is a system of racial brutality and injustice—as definite as that of Hitler's. I am surprised Roosevelt has never done anything about it. Do you suppose he really knows? Ought I write a letter to the President?"

I was sorry to inform that it would do no good. The majority on which Roosevelt's control of Congress is based depends on the southern block. They were elected only because the majority of southern voters are disfranchised by poll tax and Nazi racial laws. It would be "bad politics" for Roosevelt to intervene to help the American Negroes, or give them democracy. It is much easier for him to soft-pedal this situation, thus assuring southern help in "saving democracy in Europe."

THE LISTENING POST

Sound and Fury of Radio Forums Signify Nothing

By LARRY LANE

The radio chains are very proud of their Forum programs—"Town Hall," "The People's Platform," "American Forum." They give the networks a chance to puff off their corporate chests, and smugly say, Look how liberal we are, look how we're giving time for discussion of all sides of public issues, boys, are we democratic!

All sides? Well, almost all. Glance back over the speakers who appeared on the major Forum broadcasts during the past few months, in which the war and American foreign policy has been the chief topic of discussion. Norman Thomas, has been on the Forums, not once, but several times.

So has Verne Marshall. And on the other side of the appeasement coin, the Forums have had as speakers all the most avid war horses from the Committee to Aid America by Aiding the Allies.

The debate has been the same sort of "Heads I win, tails you lose . . ." kind as at the recent Congressional hearings on the Lend-Lease Bill in which "opposing" sides let loose with a load of sound and fury over their alleged differences.

But give an Earl Browder or a Theodore Dreiser a chance to face the Forum microphones? . . . It just isn't done. They might cut through the mass of hokum and tell the truth about things as they are.

British People Probe Causes Of the War in Marxist Classics

Literature Sales Leap Sky-High During Wartime

In the following article Douglas Garman, a noted progressive British publisher, deals with the remarkable growth in the study of Marxist literature in England and its significance.

By Douglas Garman

LONDON.—Never before

was the value of creative

Marxism so dramatically re-

vealed as it is today. The con-

trast between the Soviet

Union's continuous advance toward

a new and higher state of civiliza-

tion and the rapid declension of

the capitalist world into the bar-

barism of mass-murder, starvation

and disease is not lost upon think-

ing men and women, especially the

men and women of the working

class. The question they are ask-

ing is a simple but fundamental

one: How did it come about that

the backward Russia of the Tsars,

that "prison-house of nations," was

able to free itself from the mad

horror of the 1914-18 World War

and then proceed, in the short space

of twenty years, to create an entirely

new kind of State, which today,

alone of the Great Powers, holds

aloft the banner of progress, peace

and civilization?

Answers Simple

And Fundamental

The answer to the question is also

simple and fundamental. This

achievement is due to the leadership

of a political party whose actions

have been, for forty years, based

upon a consistent revolutionary

theory, Marxism-Leninism. But,

though the answer is simple, only a

minority—even of the militants of

the Labor and trade union move-

ment—has yet clearly understood it.

True—and this is a fact of tremen-

dous significance—that minority is

rapidly increasing, as we shall pre-

sently show.

But, equally important, the ma-

jority, who for a whole generation

have believed in the reformist

phrasemongering of "Transort

House" they had found an alterna-

tive to Marxist theory, are rapidly

coming to realize that official la-

bor has never been anything but

the tame pet of capitalism—the

obedient dog of the advertisement,

listening, with one ear cocked, to

its Master's Voice. Now, as the La-

bor movement confronts the great-

est crisis in its history, the rank

and file are thus discovering that

the high priests of gradualism have

nothing to offer but a policy iden-

tical with Churchill's: "Workers of

the world continue to blast each

other to death, in order to ensure

the victory of British imperialism." And

as the futility of this policy that

is no policy is bitten into

people's minds by experience, the

full significance of revolutionary

Marxism inevitably becomes clearer.

Their Technique

Is Subtle

But though the blatant jingoism

of Atlee and Bevin, by creating

alarm and despondency in the minds

of millions of workers who in the

past have accepted them as Social-

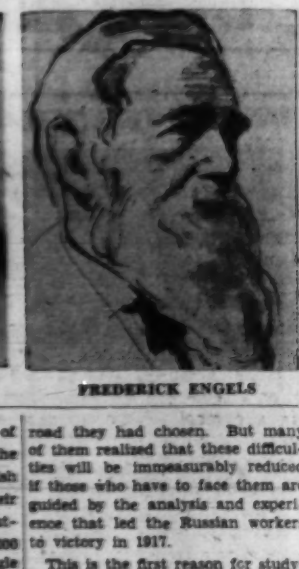
ists, helps toward greater clarity,

there remains another source of

confusion. There are Labor theo-

rists, who, because their support

of imperialism is not yet publicly



KARL MARX

FREDERICK ENGELS

VLADIMIR LENIN

break down the ignorance of Marx-

ism and for half a century have

held back the Labor movement.

They were listened to precisely be-

cause it was believed that they

were expounding, honestly even

when sometimes consciously dissemi-

nating, the theory of class strug-

gle, the essence of Marxism.

The theory of class strug-

gle, however, has all very well under

the arc lamps of the Albert Hall,

in the darkened streets and slums

shelters of imperialist war-time,

they found its practical significance

matter.

Left Book Club

Contribution

But the good work that the Left

Book Club did when it was first

body has not been lost. It helped

tens of thousands of people to dis-

seminate political questions more

clearly in their minds. It helped

thousands to answer them, by

directing them to the writings of

the great masters of the revolution-

ary theory and practice—Marx,

Engels, Lenin and Stalin, the men

who have not only explained the

world, but changed it. These men

and women, the most realistic of the

workers, the most honest of the in-

tellectuals, today are confirmed in

their conviction by the lessons of

the war.

It is a healthy sign that if it is

the history of the C. P. S. U. that

leads the way, for there is no

single book which, today, so fully

brings to the standards Stalin sets

for all theory that is "genuine

theory." It gives practical workers

the power of education, clarity of

perspective, faith in their work,

confidence in the victory of their

cause. The 50,000 copies that have

been bought are 50,000 nails in the

rotten structure of imperialism, for

no one who has read it can mistake

the lesson: that the working class, when

it is organized and led by a Party

whose practice is based on Marxist-

Leninist theory, is invincible. And

for the people of Europe this is the

message today. They are

led by the Party. Either—Or

Russia, to continue to accept the

old leadership of official Labor

and Capital, with the inevitably in-

creasing misery of hunger, disease

and bloodshed, which is all other

Chamberlain or Atlee has to offer: Or

to take their destiny into their own

hands, to create their own working

class leadership and follow the ex-

ample of the Russian people in 1917.

That more and more people have

already made this choice is clear

from the success that the People's

Convention met with on every

side. The hundreds of delegates

who were elected by Trade

Unions and Co-operative branches,

by technical and professional or-

ganizations all over the country, were

under no illusion as to the difficul-

ties that lay ahead of them on the

road they had chosen. But many

of them realized that these difficul-

ties will be immeasurably reduced

if those who have to face them are

guided by the analysis and experi-

ence that led the Russian workers

to victory in 1917.

This is the first reason for study-

ing again and again the History of

the C.P.S.U. But there is another,

equally important. No other single

volume provides so simply and

straightforward a guide to the pro-

founder study of Leninism. Just

because it describes the circum-

stances under which Lenin and

Stalin wrote their greatest works

and draws out their main lessons,

it enables the reader quickly to

grasp the universal significance of

the thought that lies behind the

particular problems they are dealing

with. And, since Marxism-Leninism

is an inseparable whole, an increas-

ing number of readers is thus drawn

to study and re-study the teachings

of Marx and Engels, the great co-

founders of scientific socialism, and

to apply what they learn to the

problems of today. Here again is

proof that the working class, when

it is organized and led by a Party

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By Lester K. Born

Well, well! We're beginning to sound like our old Dodger fan selves again.

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